

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000089934

Sheila Stoeller

From: Gjgoodmanva@aol.com

Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 4:47 AM

To: Mayes-WebEmail

Subject: Groom Creek Water Users

W-01865A-07-0384

W-01865A-07-0385

Dear Ms. Mayes- Having owned and operated a water system in Mohave County (although living in the Phoenix area) for over twenty-five years and seeing it grow from sixty customers to over forty-six hundred before selling it in 2000, I am somewhat familiar with water system operations. In fact, when you talked about the possibility of resigning to run for office, Dennis Burke and I communicated about my possibly filling out your term.

The above is mentioned only to assure you that I know something about water companies. I've been following the situation in Groom Creek closely as we have had a cabin there since the seventies. The system was poorly built and maintained until it was taken over by the customers. I remember the water being seemingly off more than on prior to the water users purchasing it from Sid Webb.

As mentioned, the system was poorly constructed with the then owner using substandard materials at every chance and records were maintained not at all as far as anyone knew. The past boards of directors (including myself for a short while six or seven years ago) tried to keep things going, but with increasing difficulty. Rate increases to actually recognize the realities of running the system and to provide funds for making necessary upgrades were never systematically filed. The result is a deteriorated system, badly in need of major work and a rate structure charging for water as if it were still the seventies. In my opinion, this system is ready to fail disasterously if something of a dramatic nature is not done soon.

The proposed rates are going to be a shock, especially in this economic environment. However, by far the bigger shock will be the complete breakdown of the system and the lack of willingness by anyone to run it. The current set of volunteers has taken much abuse from a relatively small, vocal minority who have never offered any solid alternative to the plans of this Board. The proposed rate increase must happen and happen soon or our water system will surely fail before long taking property values with it.

While I'm only a summer resident and my bills for nonresidency will increase dramatically, it is the right thing to do. If I were living there full time, I would be serving on the Board with pleasure as I admire these folks for trying to do what needs being done despite the lack of full understanding by many of the residents. The Board has done everything they could to communicate, but some just don't get the message.

Now is the time to get this project underway. Plastic pipe prices, labor costs, machinery rental costs, etc. have all come down substantially. It's time to get this new system built. I urge you and the other Commissioners to pass the requested rate increase and let the project begin as soon as possible.

Sincerely Yours,
Gary J. Goodman

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10/24/2008

Sheila Stoeller

From: Rick Hamrick [ricklhamrick@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 8:36 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail
Subject: Groom Creek Water Battle

My name is Richard Hamrick, I own property on silver king circle where the biggest problems seem to be. I also attended the meeting last week at the CC meeting, I must thank you for your common sense approach. Making a spur of the moment decision sometimes can be wrong. As I often take cases under advisement in my court, and get more info or evidence before making a decision that I have to live with. There is no doubt that we have a water problem, but it seems to me that we should have bids from a few contractors so we would have a solid price for fixing out water problem. Then we come to you and ask for an increase in rates that we know will cover the construction of replacing the water lines. Rather than guessing and then coming back a year later asking for more money like some other water companies did last week. The spokesman for the board did state that the county would work with us on the time line for the paving, and the way the money problems are for the state and counties the paving may be put on hold for quite some time. They also said they couldn't connect the old pipe in the ground to the new pipe. When they do repairs as you can see in the photos that they sent to you, looks like a pretty good job of doing something said they couldn't do, I'm sure they didn't use old Mexican pipe. I would like to see our water company be one of the best but if we were to stretch out the payments for a longer period and not raise the base rate so much it would be less burden on all of us. Even if it cost more interest in the long run, it's not there money and we will always be paying a base rate for water. It's not like we pay it off and then we own it and not have to pay for water fees anymore. Thank You For Letting Me Vent.
Richard Hamrick 602-300-3710

Sheila Stoeller

From: Mary Hunter [mhunter1126@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 12:30 PM

To: Mayes-WebEmail

Subject: W-01865A-07-0385

W-01865A-07-0384

Please route to all Commissioners.

My husband and I would like to express our concern and regret that the AZ Corporation Commission did not approve the Groom Creek increased rate increase. As new owners we are very concerned with the current state of our water pipes. They need to be fixed NOW, prior to the asphalt project on the roads which will only significantly increase the cost of the entire project. It is short sighted and will only lead to increased costs for repairs. A recent break is estimated to cost over \$15,000. to repair.

Please reconsider the approval of this project as we desperately need to protect the value of our properties and especially our water supply.

Thank you

Mary and Robert Hunter

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10/23/2008

Sheila Stoeller

From: Donna Hughes [dhughes@plattner-verderame.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 10:35 AM
To: Mayes-WebEmail
Subject: Groom Creek - W-01865A-07-0385
Attachments: AZ CC-GC Water Ltr 102108.doc

Attached please find our response to the Commission's recent decision to postpone the water improvement project and rate increase.

Sincerely,

Donna and Michael Hughes

10/23/2008

October 23, 2008

Michael and Donna Hughes
2647 N. Loma Vista
Mesa, AZ 85213

Commissioner Mayes
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Docket No. W-01865A-07-0385
Groom Creek Water Users Association Rate Increase Request

Dear Commissioner Mayes:

As a home owner in Groom Creek this letter responds to the Commission's recent decision to postpone the water improvement project and rate increase. We ask the Commission to reconsider their decision and approve the rate increases to fund the improvement project.

In our decision to purchase vacation property in Groom Creek we factored in the cost of water at its current rate. A rate increase as large as the one being suggested was not something we anticipated, so we empathize with those who are unhappy with the proposed increase. We are not happy about it either. Unfortunately, water is not an option, it's a necessity and our properties are worthless without a functional system. Whether we like it or not, the water system is antiquated and needs immediate attention. Waiting only prolongs the inevitable with potentially significant consequences.

The reality of the situation is that this community has enjoyed unprecedented low water rates for over 25 years. These rates could not and did not support improvements to the system infrastructure. In a state where water is very limited, trying to retain these rates is unrealistic, and frankly, irresponsible.

Postponing this project runs the risk of losing the cooperation of Yavapai County (road paving project) and escalating the costs to implement the improvements. Over the past year material rates for asphalt, cement, oil, etc. have more than tripled. By delaying the approval of the rate increases the cost of replacing the system will only increase. Please reconsider postponing the rate increases and allow Groom Creek to move forward with this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael and Donna Hughes

Sheila Stoeller

From: Buzz Bartylla [buzzbar1@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2008 10:05 AM
To: Mayes-WebEmail
Subject: Groom Creek Water

Hi Kris,

I have been a summer resident of Groom Creek Since 1993. Over the years our water system has gone off and on. One fourth of July we went down for 4 days and had to come back to phx. Thats sort of whining but the main point of my note is that that system is so out of date that the whole thing might blow at anytime. There is a small faction of about 25 families that don't seem to understand what it is like with no water. Were talking about people but also about the fire dept and the protection they give Groom Creek but also the defense they give the southern flank of Prescott. I would hope that someone can step up to bat and get this water renovation program started

PS My wife Amy Mcdaniel Bartylla graduated from Prescott High School and also worked for the AZ Rep when Gene Pulliam was still around.

Keep up the good work, we appreciate you.

Warmest Regards,

Buzz Bartylla
1817 Palmcroft Dr Nw
Phoenix, AZ
1355 Silver King Circle
Prescott, Arizona

10/23/2008